

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1863.The Office of the National Republican
is at 511 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania
avenue and D street, (Up stairs.)

TO OUR PATRONS.

We are now engaged in remodelling our system of delivering this paper, and hope, in a few days, to be able to deliver the paper promptly and regularly to each subscriber. Meanwhile we beg indulgence while in this transition state, until our new carriers shall become accustomed to their duties. If our subscribers will promptly notify this office when delinquencies occur, it will greatly facilitate our efforts to procure faithful carriers.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, on the 22d day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit: "That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to oppress such persons or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom."

That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States, by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lousch, Ste. Marie, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans,) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth,) and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are and henceforward shall be free; and that the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons, of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one [L. S.] thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WILLIAM H. REWARD, Secretary of State.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—Hon. Caleb B. Smith took the oath of office as U. S. Judge for Indiana, at three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and left in the cars for the West the same evening.

The duties of the office of Secretary of the Interior are now performed by Judge Usher, who has been appointed acting Secretary.

The venerable and venerated ex-Senator Crittenden had open house on New Year's day, and the charming manner in which his friends were welcomed to his delightful hospitalities can be known only to those who participated in them, and who know the fascinating accomplishments of his gifted lady, who presided on the occasion.

THE PROCLAMATION.

The President's proclamation of yesterday is the greatest event of the day and of the century. It is the beginning of the end, the commencement of the only course of treatment which can put an end to the rebellion. The opposite course, of attempting to restore the Union as it was, has, after a trial of nearly two years, miserably failed, with a loss of more than one thousand millions of treasure and of hundreds of thousands of lives.

This proclamation comes up fully to the promise of the proclamation of September 22, with the exception of the exemption of Tennessee, which is as clearly a State in insurrection as Louisiana or Texas. The exception is doubtless made in deference to the unwise entreaties of Governor Andy Johnson and his friends.

In one respect, the President goes further than he proposed to do in September; and that is, in directing blacks to be received into military service, at garrisons, posts, and stations. This is a most wise measure, as it will enable our armies to advance with undiminished numbers, while the duty of guarding posts is performed by colored troops. It will also save our white soldiers from exposure to the pestilential air of certain points which military necessity requires to be held.

It is not necessary to say that we rejoice over this proclamation with exceeding joy.

The President will receive the thanks, not only of the country, but of the world and of posterity, for his courage and wisdom in issuing it. The concluding paragraph of the proclamation deserves to be set in letters of gold:

"And upon this day, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God."

MILITARY EXPENDITURES—PERMANENT WORKS OF DEFENSE.

Instead of appropriating seven hundred and fifty millions of dollars for the current support of the army, an expenditure which will leave no lasting advantage behind, and which, from the enormousness of the sum, will be certain to run into waste and corruption, let the army appropriation bill be reduced to moderate dimensions, and let a portion of what will be thus saved be applied to permanent works of military defense.

Can any doubt that the country would gain, in a military point of view, by cutting off twenty millions from the army appropriation bill, and using the money to enlarge the Erie canal and the Michigan and Illinois canals, to a capacity sufficient for the passage of gunboats, so that we may have the same naval access to the great lakes which England has through the Welland canal? Does anybody doubt that the country would gain by the diversion of three or four millions from the army, to the opening of railroad communications for this capital with deep water on the Chesapeake, and with the interior by a connection with the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at the Point of views?

The public treasury is not inexhaustible, and even the public credit has limits to it. We must select, from the many objects of expenditure promising advantage, those which promise the most advantage, and appropriate the means of the Government with a view to all the calls which are made upon it.

SENATOR SUMNER.

A Boston newspaper, an organ of the clique in that city, which is held together by the cohesive power of hatred to better men than themselves, and which is especially embittered by the recent overthrow before the people of Mass., chaffs upon the direct and distinct issue of the re-election of Mr. Sumner as a Senator of the United States, vents its own spite and the spite of the defeated politicians whom it represents, by the sneering remark, that the suggestion of that distinguished gentleman as the successor of Gov. Seward in the Cabinet, "failed to draw out a favorable response anywhere."

It is quite certain that this suggestion of Mr. Sumner's name in connection with the premiership, did not come from his personal friends, who would unanimously oppose his leaving the Senate, where his presence and services are invaluable at this crisis. The suggestion did not come at all from personal friends, but from the universal recognition of his fitness to direct the diplomatic affairs of the country, a fitness indicated not only by his general abilities and culture, but by his special familiarity with the currents of opinion in Europe, derived from travel and correspondence. The same circumstances which caused him to be placed at the head of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, directed attention to him from all quarters, when it was supposed that the office of Secretary of State would be vacated. The suggestion of his name was, in truth, the general recognition of the eminent suitability of his appointment. It was not the case of the public responding favorably or unfavorably to the suggestion of personal friends, but it was the public itself speaking authoritatively for itself. If there was any voice of dissent, it was only heard from a little, narrow, sour and perverse set of politicians, whose influence is confined to the city limits of Boston.

The *Intelligencer*, not our venerable contemporary in this city, but a Maryland newspaper, says of Gov. Hicks, the newly appointed U. S. Senator from that State:

"Only a few days since he remarked upon our hearing, that 'We can never have a stable Government and a peaceful Union as long as slavery exists in the country.'"

The Mississippi Expedition.

From the Chicago Post, December 27th.

The "Mississippi expedition," about which so much has been said and so little known, is already on the way, or perhaps by this time has arrived at its destination. Its commanding officer is not Gen. McClelland, but Gen. Sherman. We suspect that the object has been all along to keep the name of Gen. McClelland prominent as the organizer of this expedition at Cairo, for a strategic purpose, while the expedition was in fact, getting ready to start and moving from a different point.

The Mississippi expedition is of a much more formidable character than is generally supposed. Its organization embraces three grand divisions, which General A. J. Smith's is the right, General Morgan L. Smith's the center, and General George W. Morgan's the left.

The number of troops embraced in these corps, we, of course, cannot state; but it may be relied upon that it will require a total force of not less than fifty or sixty thousand men to make anything like successful opposition.

The composition of this army is entirely Northwestern, our own State having therein no small representation. In Gen. M. L. Smith's division are Barrett's, Wood's, Cooley's and Hart's Chicago batteries; the Fifty-fifth, One hundred and twenty-seventh, One hundred and sixteenth, and One hundred and thirtieth Illinois infantry; the Sixth and Eighth Missouri infantry, etc. Illinois regiments are also found in each of the other divisions.

In addition to and independent of this expedition is an army, said to number 60,000 men, at Helena, Arkansas, under Gen. Steele. That army, as we see by the recent order for transport, is also about to move, if it is not already in motion. What part in the grand drama of war in the Southwest this army is destined to perform will not long remain secret.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN WASHINGTON.

Public Receptions, Incidents, &c.

New Year's day dawned auspiciously indeed in Washington. The clouds which had been hovering over us as the day previous, imparting a gloomy aspect to affairs, began gradually to melt away on the approach of the first hours of morn, and as darkness took its flight, scarce a cloud remained to obscure the brilliant rays of light emitted from the great alchemist.

So may it be with the nation in of our national horizon. May it be as ominous of success and glory in the future as the dawn of the yesterday's morn was indicative of the fairness of the day.

As the clouds in the heavens began to fade away under the genial influence of the New Year's sun, so may all those irreconcilable and inconsistent opinions and feelings regarding universal freedom, which have so long marred our political arena, be removed, as the just and righteous principles of liberty to all have now matured into the glorious instrument proclaiming freedom to the hitherto much abused and enslaved race.

And may its influence upon those who have heretofore favored the bondage of the colored race be as happy in its effect as the sun's rays upon the little remnant of cloud, and be made to reflect back with more power the greatness and sublimity of the glorious proclamation, by reason of the contrast with their former position on this subject.

As an early hour the streets were thronged with persons of all grades and descriptions, who seemed bent upon welcoming the inception of the New Year with light hearts, warm salutations, and buoyant and hopeful spirits, despite the depressing hours of morn. All seemed resolved, instead of repining over past misfortunes, to profit thereby, and endeavor if possible to achieve a more glorious future.

The President's Reception.

The reception at the Executive mansion was unusually attended—nearly more so than in former years. The hours devoted to the general reception were from 10 o'clock to 2. The President looked well—was never more gay or buoyant. He had got his mind (or his pen, at least) off the proclamation, and that work done, for a time he seemed to breathe more freely. The proclamation, however, had not, at the hour of writing, been made public, and many looked inquiringly into the face of the President, but before he could utter the word of liberation had been pronounced.

An extemporized passage-way, with two flights of steps, was the way of exit from the room. The people came out looking pleased. The army and navy were numerous and respectfully represented, the younger officers especially, as if becoming an occasion of such a nature. Indeed, throughout the day, we noticed about town fewer carefully dressed and dirty citizens than usual.

The reception of the foreign ministers and their families takes place at an earlier hour, from 10 to 12. As the ambassadors appear in full court costume, and their ladies are expected to display the latest fashions in dress, this spectacle is annually attended by a large crowd of both sexes. The spectators, however, are in this instance eminently "outsiders," for none except the ministers and their families, and members of the Cabinet, are present at the reception.

Yesterday there was a large gathering, both on foot and in carriages, to behold the exit and entrance of the highly dressed cortege. Each minister came separately. The whole "body of the diplomacy," with the ladies of their families, were in attendance yesterday. The only exception we noticed was that of the Commander Fignierre, the representative of Portugal. This gentleman resides habitually at New York, and is seldom at Washington, except on business immediately interesting to his Government. The following gentlemen were present in costume with their families:

Senor Antonio Jose de Yriarte, representing Guatemala and Salvador.

Senor Louis Molina, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Senor General P. A. Herrera, New Grenada.

The Conde de Senhor Miguel Maria Lisboa, Brazil.

Senor F. de A. de Baragosa, Chili.

Senor Frederic L. Barreda, Peru.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Lyons, Great Britain.

M. Henri Mercier, France.

M. Edward de Stoeckl, Russia.

M. Boet Van Limburg, Netherlands.

Senor Don Gabriel Garcia y Tassara, Spain.

The Chevalier Halesman, Austria.

Baron Von Gerolt, Prussia.

The Chevalier Bertinatti, Italy.

Edward Count Piper, Sweden and Norway.

Charles de Affairs for Denmark and Iceland.

M. Alfred Burghmans, Belgium.

Mr. Rudolph Scheldens, Bremen.

Senor Matias Romero, Mexico.

Receptions of Members of the Cabinet.

The throngs attracted to the residence of the several members of the Cabinet, who held receptions on the occasion, were unprecedented in numbers, in elegance of equipage and official costume, as well as in the large number of personages comprising in every walk of professional life.

SECRETARY SEWARD.—The celebrated hour of 12 o'clock, which custom designates for opening welcome doors on such festive occasions, had hardly arrived ere the tide was swelling in the direction of the residence of this colossal patriot and statesman, who, in his position at the head of the Cabinet, bears upon his shoulders, in this hour, so largely of the destinies of a great and distracted people. Distinguished for the most unostentatious elegance of his manners, he never could have been more happy in such amenities than he was on this occasion. The diplomatic corps, in full court costume, and the officers of the army and navy, in full uniform, as well as the civilians in morn, paid their respects to him with cordial greetings, and salutations to disperse for an hour the grave and solemn mien which in such stern hours as these weigh upon a great public man. His daughter, Miss Seward, and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frederick Seward, the lady of the assistant Secretary of State, were present to contribute their full share in the graceful and pleasant honors of the holiday entertainment. The distinguished Secretary was in fine spirits, and the dignified simplicity of his manners, combined with his happy mood, could not have failed to inspire in his numerous guests the most pleasurable recollections of their visit.

SECRETARY CHASE.—The throng which pressed their way to the elegant mansion of this another colossal national pillar, the illustrious financial head of the Government, was no less imposing than in the case of his great associ-

ate, of whom we have already spoken. Secretaries Chase, in his lofty, symmetrical, physical proportions, in the massive, intellectual outlines of his evenly developed brow and head, in his large, pleasant, and penetrating eye and finely developed features, in his unassuming, one of the grandest of the great public men to look upon that this country has ever produced, and the marvelous urbanity of his manners, rendered him as delightful in his social courtesies as he is lofty and imposing in his personal appearance.

Among those whose names were announced, and who were ushered into the reception room while we were present, was the brave and patriotic old veteran, General Wool, who, though he has seen so much wearing service for his country, and is more than three score years and ten in age, still steps, and looks, and acts more like a well-preserved, vigorous man of sixty.

As we were looking, with homage, upon the massive brow of the noble old veteran, another hero was ushered into the room in the person of that magnificent soldier, General Heintzelman.

Miss Kate Chase, whose admirations, as a true daughter and a noble-hearted woman—not less than her sweet, capricious, manners and personal graces make her so universally admired—stood by the side of her father to do the chief grace of the occasion. Her other, younger sister, Miss Nettie, and Miss Parsons, of Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of an illustrious friend of the family, contributed additional attractions to the visitation, and we would do injustice to our own feelings did we not make the most special mention of Mr. Charles Wilson, the gentlemanly who, so admirably performed his duties on the occasion.

SECRETARY STANTON.—The multitude which honored the distinguished and able head of the War Office with a festive call, was, perhaps, larger, as it fully equalled in dignity and elegance, that of either of the other Cabinet functionaries. At the time of our call, the hour for such calls had nearly terminated and the house was still thronged, and scores of elegant public and private carriages lined the pavement for a long space on either side of the Secretary's spacious and elegant mansion.

The distinguished Secretary received the pressing throng in an easy and affable manner, which hardly allowed you to believe yourself in the presence of one whose fiat at the head of the military operations of the country so takes hold upon all the stupendous interests, at this time, of one of the greatest nations upon the face of the earth. We think he left entirely a favorable impression upon all who honored him with their presence on the occasion.

His accomplished lady, with Miss Stanton, a niece, and Miss Wilkes, a friend of the family, both of them graceful young ladies, added their presence to the accomplishments of the entertainment.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RILEY.—The calls upon the Attorney General were little less numerous and equally as complimentary in their character as in the case of those already mentioned. The able Attorney General, venerable for a long career of eminent professional and patriotic public services, as for everything that most adorn the sanctuary of a private life, received his guests with the utmost care and frankness, to which his dignified and polished lady, with their two agreeable daughters, and their guests, Miss Woodson and Miss Dorsey, added a full share to the gracefulness of the honors.

SECRETARY WELLES and POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIR, in consequence of the late drafts to their families, held no reception.

Soldiers' Free Library.

Though no formal visitation was made to the Soldiers' Free Library yesterday, which was provided as on Christmas, yet the soldiers in the hospitals and elsewhere in this city were not forgotten on New Year's day by a few patriotic individuals. Several of our most prominent citizens and ladies spent much of the day in visiting the hospitals, dispensing little comforts to the suffering patriots.

One of the most interesting places which we visited was the Soldiers' Free Library of Washington, located at 407 Fifth street. This institution, which is now quite a formidable affair, supplying reading matter for the thousands of soldiers in our city, has grown up under the direction of those noble friends of the soldiers, Miss Eliza B. Ramsey and John A. Fowle, who have had control of the matter, and through whom hundreds of dollars worth of Bibles, Testaments, tracts, hymn-books, hospital books, &c., have been dispensed from the liberal and patriotic ladies of the North. We visited this interesting locality about 3 o'clock, and witnessed a scene which would rejoice the heart of every lover of his country's brave defenders. Over the door the celebrated flag presented by the children of Dorchester was suspended, while on the outside was a large placard announcing that "the library will be open all day on New Year's day, 1863. All the soldiers are invited to call and write their names in our New Year's book, and get a small token from our Northern friends."

Entering the room, we found it crowded with soldiers of different regiments from all parts of the country. Mr. Fowle was engaged in delivering library books to the soldiers, registering their names, number of the books, &c. On a box in the back part of the room stood Mrs. Walter Baker, a wealthy and patriotic lady from Dorchester, Mass., who came all the way from her distant home for the express purpose of being present to this, her joyful occasion. She has already contributed largely to the library, and brought 700 volumes with her on this occasion. She was engaged in distributing to each soldier a sheet of paper and an envelope, directing each to "write a long letter home to wife, sister, or the one you love best." She also gave a card of the library, and, in such as desired, Bibles, Testaments, pamphlets, &c. For this she requested their signatures in her autograph book, that she might show her friends the names of "her Washington friends."

When we entered this room we heard loud and hearty cheers from the soldiers, which almost stunned us with its deafening enthusiasm. We soon learned the cause of the uproar. Mr. Fowle held in his hand a soldier's shirt, plainly but neatly and carefully made, the whole in perfect order, even to the smallest button hole. On one side of the same was pinned the card of a beautiful bright-eyed little girl, with the following words were neatly written on the front:

"The little fingers of Alice Heath, of Bunker Hill, Charleston, Mass., aged 4 years, send every wish in this shirt. She loves the soldier."

Mr. Fowle stated that the shirt was the donation of the little girl whose portrait was attached to a wounded soldier. He intended to give the shirt to the greatest sufferer. He found one soldier with nine bullet holes in his body, and, afterwards, one in Armory Hospital with fifteen wounds, and when he found one with twenty honorable marks, he would give him the shirt. He then proposed three cheers for the little girl. They were given with a will. Many times during the day the same thrilling incident was enacted in the presence of a new audience. Many were "exclamations of these

sturdy patriots as they gazed on the beautiful form of the little girl, as enfolded in the picture. "Ood bless her, may she live to see a great many more!" "She ought to have a hundred cheers!" "Heaven bless the soldiers' little friend!" "True Bunker Hill stock that!" and other similar expressions, welled up from the full hearts. After receiving the books and papers, the gratified and delighted soldiers then passed to another room, where Miss Ramsey and other ladies were engaged in dealing out cakes and apples to their guests. Here another autograph, which Miss R. playfully termed her "pay roll," was presented for signature. Every soldier cheerfully registered his name, company, regiment, and town, and partook of the edibles. The greater portion of the cakes were sent from Duxbury, Mass., and the apples from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, and other loyal States.

During the day, the library was visited by Mrs. Senator Powers, the wife of Representative Hooper, of Massachusetts, and other ladies of distinction, who were deeply interested and gratified. The above-named ladies brought a lot of little presents for the soldiers, and remained some time to aid in the distribution.

The cards, envelopes, &c., were always received with a graceful "thank you, madam." The envelopes were stamped with the name of the library and its location.

It is estimated that about 2,000 soldiers visited these "headquarters" during yesterday, and about 700 library books were given out. We found it difficult to determine who enjoyed the occasion the most, the recipients or the donors. It certainly was an unusual New Year's scene. The like was never before witnessed in this country.

There was only one defect in the whole arrangement. The room for the library, though as large as the means at hand would provide, is a great deal too small for the purpose. We learn that a concert will be given at Willard's Hall, on the night of January 8th, in aid of a fund to provide a larger room for the soldiers' library. We know of no object which deserves a more liberal patronage.

Reception of the Mayor.

Among the pleasant receptions yesterday we must at the residence of Hon. Richard Wallace, our worthy Mayor, who kept open house from morning till night. He was called upon by Senators and Representatives, prominent Government officials, distinguished army and navy officers, citizens, and strangers, who paid him the compliments of the season. They were most cordially welcomed and highly entertained.

At three o'clock p. m., the Metropolitan Police paid their respects to his Honor, and participated in the hospitalities of the occasion. The last string hung out to all, so that the humblest citizen, as well as the most distinguished dignitary, was permitted to enjoy the freedom of his hospitable mansion, and partake of the savory viands under which the table was groaning.

It was really "a feast of reason and a flow of soul," and will long be remembered as a pleasant incident on a happy New Year.

As interesting feature at this reception was the entire absence of spirituous or malt liquors, but in their stead excellent coffee and chocolate were dispensed to all who chose to partake of such excellencies.

Reception of the City Postmaster.

The residence of L. Clephane, Esq., our worthy City Postmaster, was, as usual on such occasions, thrown open to his friends, and the opportunity was availed of by a large number, who visited him for the purpose of wishing him a happy New Year. A sumptuous repast was prepared, the richness of which will be attested by all who were so fortunate as to call.

During the latter part of the day the American flag gracefully drooped over the table, with a large manuscript copy of the President's proclamation suspended therefrom.

Reception of the President, Board of Common Council.

Mr. Alex. R. Shepherd, President Board of Common Council, gratified his numerous friends by affording them an opportunity to call and pay their respects to himself and his estimable lady, after the manner peculiar to the occasion of New Year's day. Many were the happy greetings they both received. After the usual salutations, a hospitable table awaited the attention of the visitors.

Reception of the District Attorney.

District Attorney Carrington also received his friends yesterday in his usual hospitable manner.

Various other entertainments were given by prominent citizens and military gentlemen, but our limited space prevents further notice at this time.

Correspondence of the National Republican.

Letters by the N. R.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31, 1862.

The improvements in the transit arrangements between Washington and the cities farther North are beginning to show themselves already. The first instalment of the four new trains is to be put on this route is commencing on its good work. Entering the car at Washington, you remain comfortably seated, if you please, until you cross in the ferry boat at Jersey City and pass to New York. A new car, suitable for sleeping as well as day travel, has been invented by Mr. W. H. Van Norwick, of Bordentown, N. J., which will give every facility that can be desired. I have never seen anything of the kind so simple and yet so perfectly convenient.

At Philadelphia the plan put in operation for refreshing our Union volunteers as they pass on to the seat of war is worthy of the economies passed upon them in the journals. Thousands of our hungry and weary troops are here fed and lodged in the most comfortable manner. The Fifteenth regiment of Massachusetts has five of its companies stoppable at the Cooper's shop restaurant. They are spoken of in the highest terms. Col. Meuser is quite unwell at the Continental, and the troops are in command of Lieut. Col. Locke. The rest of the regiment has passed on to join Gen. Banks. These companies would be with him had it not been for the untimely of the steamer Niagara on which they started from New York. An examination of this vessel must soon satisfy any competent person of her total unworthiness. A light, fragile, market boat, fit only for vegetable cargoes on rivers, is put on an expedition of war, with nearly 600 souls on board, to try the winter passage of the Ohio stream! It is to be hoped that an example will be made in this case that will produce an effect on all future attempts of the kind.

The emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln is being well received in Philadelphia. The people most interested in it will hold religious services, spending the night preceding the first of January, in prayer and praise, avoiding all unnecessary demonstration.

Gen. McClelland.—Gen. McClelland is expected to arrive in this city to-day, for the purpose of testifying before the Porter court.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Gen. Butler and Staff arrive in New York.

His Views on Slavery.

General Banks has issued an Address.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

NOTHING NEW FROM VICKSBURG.

General Butler coming to Washington.

New York, January 1.—The steamer S. H. Spaulding, from New Orleans on the 24th ult., arrived here to-day. Among her passengers are Gen. Butler and staff, excepting Cols. Jones, French, and Capt. John Clark, who remains for the present.

Gen. Butler, prior to leaving New Orleans, gave a reception at the City Hall, where hundreds of children and officers waited upon him. He also issued a farewell address to the citizens, in which he says he leaves them with the profoundest conviction of carrying with him the blessings of the humble and loyal, from under the cottage roof and from the cabin of the slave. He is quite content to leave the ankers of the saloon or the cruises of the rich.

He concludes by saying that "months of experience and observation have forced the conviction that the existence of slavery is incompatible with the safety of ourselves or the Union."

The steamer Empire Parish was fired into while loading sugar at the Marenco plantation, by guerrillas, the shots killing C. McMill, assistant engineer, and seriously wounding W. J. Reid, a New York merchant, and three others.

On the 24th ultimo Gen. Banks issued an address, appended to which is the President's proclamation of emancipation. In his address Gen. Banks, after rehearsing the objects and the effect of the President's proclamation, says: "It is manifest that the changes suggested by the proclamation do not take place at any precise period," and Gen. Banks calls upon all persons (citizens or slaves) to govern themselves accordingly. All usual public demonstrations will be for the present suspended, and provost marshals are enjoined to prevent any disturbance of the public peace. Slaves are advised to remain upon the plantations until their privileges are definitely established, resting assured that whatever benefits the Government intends will be secured to them.

General Banks also instructs the officers to secure the strictest discipline in camp. Attention also is called to the act of Congress, forbidding the return of slaves by the army. The war is not waged for the overthrow of slavery, but to restore constitutional relations between the United States and such of the States. If slavery is to be preserved, the war must cease, and the former constitutional relations again be established for us, and the continuance of the war will lead to no other permanent track of rebellion but emancipation.

Contest in public, as in social life strengthens and consolidates brotherly affection. It is a baseless nationality that has not tested its strength against domestic enemies. The success of local interests narrows the destiny of people, and is followed by secession, poverty, and degradation. The triumph of national interests widens the scope of human history, and is attended with peace, prosperity, and power. It is out of such conflicts that great nations are born.

Gen. Banks concludes thus: "Let us fulfill the conditions of this last great trial, and become a nation, a grand nation, with sense enough to govern ourselves and strength enough to stand against the whole world united."

Up to the time of the sailing of the steamer, nothing transpired as to the intended movement of Gen. Banks, but it was known that a campaign had been marked out, with Baton Rouge as a base of operations.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

VICE PRESIDENT HAMILIN, Hon. F. A. Pike, and Hon. John H. Rice and others, returned to this city last evening from Falmouth, where they have been spending a few days. They speak in confident terms of the spirit of our army there.

The Baltimore *American* thinks that General McClelland is to succeed General Dix as command at Fort Monroe. That he is to have a sufficient force in enable him to proceed to Richmond by way of the James river.

Singular Case of Robbery & Murder.

From the Toledo (O.) Blade.

We are informed of a remarkable case of poisoning and robbery, which occurred near the village of Milan, near Toledo, Ohio, some time since. A citizen, whose name our informant does not recall, was returning to that place from the neighboring village of Milan, and was accompanied by a stranger, who desired to ride with him. At once gave him a seat by the side of the stage, and after a few moments the stranger, who was a white man, appeared to be a warm-blooded, and a stomach-ache, which soon increased to a violent attack, which soon terminated in death. He looked in vain for some home remedy, but none appeared. He discovered that the occasion had been poisoned, and he became unconscious. He then became unconscious, and his horse going along without guidance, himself lying at the bottom of the stage, he managed to reach the